

United States Embassy Nouakchott, Mauritania
Security Message for U.S. Citizens: Demonstration March in Nouakchott
November 17, 2013

With the first round of legislative and municipal elections scheduled for Saturday, November 23, 2013, local media reports that there will be an increase in election-related demonstrations and rallies throughout the week. The U.S. Embassy has learned that there will be a demonstration march in Nouakchott starting at 5 p.m. on November 17, 2013. Organized by opposition parties in protest of scheduled municipal and legislative elections, the march is scheduled to begin in the area of the Moroccan Mosque and to conclude at the National Assembly. Other demonstrations and rallies are scheduled throughout the week. U.S. Citizens are advised to monitor local media in order to keep up-to-date on local conditions.

U.S. Embassy personnel are advised to avoid the areas of the demonstrations and rallies. Accordingly, U.S. citizens in Mauritania are recommended to take the same precautions. Remember, even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and escalate into violence. Avoid protests, or demonstrations, and exercise caution if in the vicinity of any large gatherings.

Be sure to review your personal security plans and remain aware of your surroundings, including at local events; and monitor local news stations for updates. Maintain a high level of vigilance and take appropriate steps to enhance your personal security and follow instructions of local authorities.

We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in Mauritania enroll in the Department of State's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) at <https://step.state.gov/step>. STEP enrollment gives you the latest security updates, and makes it easier for the U.S. embassy or nearest U.S. consulate to contact you in an emergency. If you don't have Internet access, enroll directly with the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

Regularly monitor the State Department's website at <http://travel.state.gov>, where you can find current Travel Warnings, (including the Travel Warning for Mauritania), Travel Alerts, and the Worldwide Caution. Read the Country Specific Information for Mauritania at http://travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_4965.html.

For additional information, refer to "A Safe Trip Abroad" on the State

Department's website.

Contact the U.S. embassy or consulate for up-to-date information on travel restrictions. You can also call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free from within the United States and Canada, or 1-202-501-4444 from other countries. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays). Follow us on Twitter at <https://mobile.twitter.com/travelgov> and Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/travelgov>, and download our free Smart Traveler iPhone App at <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/smart-traveler/id442693988?mt=8> to have travel information at your fingertips.

The U.S. Embassy in Nouakchott is located between the Presidency building and the Spanish Embassy on Rue Abdallaye and is open Sunday-Thursday from 8:00-5:00. The phone number is 45 25 26 60. If you are a U.S. citizen in need of urgent assistance, the emergency number for the U.S. Embassy is 36 62 81 63. In the event of an emergency that interrupts mobile phone (SMS) or Internet communication in Mauritania, U.S. citizens may call the Embassy's dedicated Consular emergency recording at 45 25 37 07 to receive the most up-to-date instructions.